(d) if so, the action being taken for improvement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Sir, the average month-wise WPI based inflation for the last two years is indicated in the table below.

Table: WPI based Rate of Inflation (%)
(Average of weeks)

Year	2005	2006	2007
January	5.54	4.08	6.21*
February	5.01	4.03	6.42*
March	5.34	3.91	
April	5.91	3.86	
May	5.49	4.79	
June	4.32	5.12	
July	4.29	4.83	
August	3.66	5.12	
September	4.06	5.38	
October	4.71	5.51	
November	4.21	5.50	
December	4.45	5.68	

*Provisional

(b) and (c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

Aid to Andhra Pradesh for improvement of Medical Services

2314. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Finance and Inernational Development has agreed to give Rs. 1,000 crores to improve medical services and reforms in the medical sector of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Whether it is also a fact that DFID agreed in 2006 that out of above Rs. 1,000 crores, Rs. 700 crores would be given in the form of grant; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons that Government have reduced the project cost to Rs. 700 crores and grant to Rs. 400 crores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) In December 2005, Department of Economic Affairs forwarded the project proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh on "Enhancing Service Delivery and Quality Health Care Programme" to Department of International Development (DFID) for financial assistance of 100 £ million sterling. In January 2006, DFID informed Department of Economic Affairs that they would support this proposal. DFID has now indicated that they would provide 60 £ million (approx. Rs. 500 crores) for the project over three years.

External bilateral partners decide on the quantum of assistance for the agreed project proposals recommended by Government of India depending on availability of funds provided under their Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget.

Investment by LIC in sick companies

2315. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of investment made by financial institutions like Life Insurance Corporation by sick companies which have stopped trading in stock exchanges since 2001;

(b) the quantum of funds thus locked, company-wise and shareholding-wise which should have long been unlocked to generate higher returns in the present day capital market;

(c) the steps being taken to liquidate and reinvest the funds immediately to minimize losses;

(d) the details of the companies for which offer proposals for purchase have been received till date since 2001;

(e) if so, the action taken on these proposals; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?